

somewhat remarkable that it appears to be the case also with some of the migratory species, such as the Corsican Nightingale, Red-backed Shrike, and Cuckoo. The Corsican Woodchat is, on the contrary, a somewhat long-winged bird.

The examination of a series of Corsican eggs also reveals the fact that in most cases they are smaller than those of the continental races of the same species and, on the whole, blues and greys seem to predominate over reds and browns. Thus, out of a large number of nests of the Subalpine Warbler examined, not one contained eggs of the handsome red type which is prevalent in some parts of Spain, and is also present in the Eastern race; no pinkish or red-brown eggs of the Sardinian Warbler were met with, and even in the case of the Red-backed Shrike eggs of the red type were very rare, though extremely common on the Continent. On the other hand, the ground-colour of the few eggs examined of the Corsican Mistle-Thrush was a deep blue, and some eggs of the Spotted Flycatcher had also a decided blue ground.

With regard to the nomenclature adopted, Dr. Hartert's work has been followed as far as it has already been published, and I have to thank him for allowing me to make use of his unpublished manuscript notes on the names of the remaining species.

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#### XVI.—*Notes on Laniarius mufumbiri.*

By W. R. OGILVIE-GRANT, M.B.O.U.

(Plate VI.)

THE genus *Laniarius* was created by Vieillot (*Analyse*, p. 41, no. 128, 1816), for the splendid Shrike first described by Brisson as *La Pie-grièche rouge du Sénégal* (*Orn.* ii. p. 185, pl. xvii. fig. 2, 1760), and named *Lanius barbarus* by Linnæus (*S. N.* i. p. 137, 1766). Le Vaillant figured it under the name *Le Gonolek* (*Ois. d'Afr.* iii. p. 78, pl. 69, 1799). It has the entire crown and nape dull golden-yellow, the lores, sides of the head and neck, as well as the upper parts, wings, and tail glossy black; the chin, throat,



Pl. Ornith. 4 1912

LANIARIUS MUFUMBIRI.

West. New Guinea, 1911

breast, and belly scarlet; the vent, under tail-coverts, and thighs brownish cinnamon. The feathers of the lower back and rump are soft, considerably lengthened and very voluminous, with concealed subterminal white spots.

Dr. Gadow (Cat. Birds B. M. viii. p. 104, 1883), in his Key to the Genera of *Malaconotinae*, seems to infer that in the genus *Laniarius* the feathers of the lower back are not fluffy as in *Dryoscopus*; but, as already stated, this is a mistake, though possibly due to the way in which the key is worded. The remarkably handsome species, *L. barbarus*, which ranges from Senegal to the Niger, has always been readily recognised from all other species of *Laniarius* by its yellow crown; but last year a new species of the same type was discovered in the Mufumbiro Volcanos, and specimens were brought home almost simultaneously by Mrs. M. Roby and Mr. T. V. Fox. As will be seen by the accompanying Plate, this novelty is easily recognised by having the median wing-coverts broadly tipped with white, and the thighs, vent, and under tail-coverts whitish instead of light cinnamon-brown. It is, moreover, a much smaller bird, and has a wide black eyebrow-stripe separating the more ochraceous yellow crown from the eye: in *L. barbarus* the dull golden-yellow crown is narrowly separated from the eye by a black line, which is sometimes wanting.

The bird presented to the Museum by Mrs. Roby was said to have been obtained by that adventurous traveller at Vichumbi, at the south end of Lake Edward, on the 4th of December, 1910. A female procured by Mr. Fox was shot at Ruchuduru, Ruchigga, on the 19th of July, 1911. Mrs. Roby's specimen, which had been mummified with formalin, was with difficulty made into a skin, and it was impossible to ascertain the sex.

The species may be described as follows:—

#### LANIARIUS MUFUMBIRI.

*Laniarius mufumbiri* Ogilvie-Grant, Bull. B. O. C. xxix. p. 30 (1911).

*Adult.* Resembles *L. barbarus* Linn., but is considerably